

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 IGA-02 EB-07 L-03 INR-07

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R 141800Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3158

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0919

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ZA, US

SUBJECT: ASSISTANCE TO ZAMBIA

REF: LUSAKA 0783

AT LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE FOR LOCAL BANKERS AND GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL LEADERS, MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION MONZE AGAIN ASKED TO DISCUSS SPECIFICS OF PROPOSED PACKAGE OF US ASSISTANCE. WE GAVE MINISTER GENERALIZED DESCRIPTION OF EMBASSY UNDERSTANDING OF POSSIBLE COMPOSITION OF AID PACKAGE, INCLUDING COMMODITY LOAN, HOUSING INVESTMENT GUARANTY PROGRAM, AND EX-IM CREDITS FOR SPECIFIC CAPITAL GOODS REQUIREMENTS. MINISTER SHOWED SPECIAL INTEREST IN QUESTION OF POSSIBLE PL-480 TITLE II GRANT AID FOR USE IN FOOD FOR WORK PROGRAM WHICH WE INTRODUCED IN EFFORT BE RESPONSIVE TO HER INSISTENCE ON GRANT AID. IN THIS DISCUSSION, AND IN EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BANDA, IT APPARENT THAT GRZ NOW FEELS NEW SENSE OF URGENCY IN WANTING TO FORMALIZE ASSISTANCE REQUEST, BUT AT SAME TIME HARBORS SOME FEAR OF SUBMITTING REQUESTS TO WHICH USG CANNOT BE RESPONSIVE AND WHICH COULD THEN BE EMBARRASSING FOR GRZ.

3. BOTH MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION ASSURE US DRAFT AID REQUEST LETTER WILL
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BE FORWARDED TO FOREIGN MINISTER WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS. LATTER

NOW HAS AUTHORIZATION FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO MAKE A SPECIFIC WRITTEN REQUEST FOR US ASSISTANCE AND HAS ASKED FOR INITIAL INFORMAL EMBASSY REVIEW BEFORE MINISTER MAKES FORMAL SUBMISSION.

4. IT WOULD THUS BE VERY HELPFUL TO HAVE DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON QUESTIONS RAISED REFTEL ASAP.

5. WE ASSUME NEW ZAMBIAN SENSE OF URGENCY RELATES TO NEED TO TIDY UP LOCAL THINKING ON ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS IN ADVANCE OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO AFRICA ON ASSUHVATION AID WILL BE ON AGENDA OF SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRES KAUNDA. PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT MARK CHONA REEMPHASIZED ZAMBIAN NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR APRIL 13.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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